



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
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**REPORT ON CREATING AN EFFICIENT TRACKING METHOD FOR  
DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA) RAPE KITS**

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 99, House Draft 1 (2012)

Submitted to the Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013

**I. BACKGROUND ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99, HOUSE  
DRAFT 1**

House Concurrent Resolution No. 99, House Draft 1, requests that the Department of the Attorney General (Department) submit a report to the 2013 and 2014 Legislature with the following information:

- (1) The status of its effort in creating an efficient tracking method for DNA rape kit processing;
- (2) Potential sources of additional funding for the Honolulu Police Department Crime Laboratory; and
- (3) Other recommendations, including any proposed legislation.

**II. STATUS OF EFFORT TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT TRACKING METHOD  
FOR DNA RAPE KIT PROCESSING**

In October 2012, the Department met with representatives from the rape crisis centers (Sex Abuse Treatment Center, YWCA of Hawaii Island Empowering Alternatives, YWCA of Kauai, Child and Family Services – Maui), the Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Police Departments, City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Maui Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu Department of the Medical Examiner, and with a number of sexual assault nurse and forensic examiners.

The Department notified the above entities about H.C.R. No. 99, H.D. 1, and began gathering information about:

- The entities/personnel that handle the DNA rape kits;

- The distribution of the DNA rape kits;
- The chain of custody of the evidence collected from the DNA rape kits;
- Interagency agreements between the county police departments for DNA testing;
- Factors that determine whether a DNA rape kit is tested;
- When DNA rape kits are tested at outsourced private labs; and
- Where the completed DNA rape kits are stored.

The purpose of the meetings was also to identify key members (local and federal entities) to work with the Department on H.C.R. No. 99, H.D. 1. In 2013, the Department will work with these key members to develop a feasible tracking method for DNA rape kit processing. A final report of the Department's findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Twenty-Seventh State Legislature, Regular Session of 2014.

### **III. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME LABORATORY**

There are limited grant programs for DNA or laboratory enhancements for the Honolulu Police Department Crime Laboratory. The Department administers the federal Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant (Coverdell) Program and solicits applications from eligible laboratories, which include the Honolulu Police Department's Scientific Investigation Section (HPD-SIS). HPD-SIS Forensic Laboratory Director, Wayne Kimoto, is notified annually about the available grant funding.

HPD currently applies for and receives funding from the National Institute of Justice DNA Backlog Reduction Program. For a listing of HPD's fiscal year 2010-2011 and fiscal year 2011-2012 awards and program abstracts go to <http://nij.gov/nij/topics/forensics/lab-operations/evidence-backlogs/backlog-reduction-awards.htm>. The DNA Backlog Reduction Program is not limited to reducing the backlog of DNA rape kits.